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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/593,775	06/14/2000	Yoshihiko Watanabe	35.G2604	8045
5514	7590	03/18/2004		
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112				
			EXAMINER KASSA, YOSEF	
			ART UNIT 2625	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/593,775	WATANABE, YOSHIHIKO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	YOSEF KASSA	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01/07/2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-9,11,17,19-26,28-35,37-45 and 47-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-9,11,17,19-26,28-35,37-45 and 47-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 June 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, (page 4-8) filed on 01/07/2004, with respect to claims 1, 3-9, 11, 17, 19-26, 28-35, 37-45 and 47-52 under Yamashita et al (U.S. Patent 5,555,362) and Takeda (US Patent 4,808,987) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Nomura et al (U.S. Patent 5,745,664).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 17, 19-26, 28-35, 37-45 and 47-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita et al (U.S. Patent 5,555,362), and further in view of Nomura et al (U.S. Patent 5,745,664).

With regard to claim 1, Yamashita et al discloses dividing means for dividing an original image onto a plurality of image blocks (see Fig. 2, items 22 and 23); extracting means for extracting a plurality of partial images from each of the plurality of image block (see col. 3, lines 35-48); generating means for combining the plurality of partial

images extracted by extracting means (see col. 4, lines 18-25); and indicating means for indicating the combined image generated by generating means (see col. 3, lines 53-58).

Yamashita does not explicitly call for generating a combined image smaller than the original image. However, in the same field of endeavor Nomura et al (see col. 1, lines 65-col. 2, lines 1-7) teaches this feature. At the time of the invention was made, it would have been obvious to incorporate the teaching of Nomura et al image synthesizing system into Yamashita et al system. The motivation for doing so is to synthesize plurality of images read from the plurality of documents with the desired sizes in a specified image area of the document.

With regard to claim 3, Yamashita et al discloses dividing means divides original image into a plurality of uniform image blocks (see Fig. 3).

With regard to claim 4, Yamashita et al discloses extracting means obtains the partial image at a same position in each image block (see Fig. 3).

With regard to claim 5, Yamashita et al discloses dividing means divides each image block into a plurality of uniform partial images, and said extracting means obtains the partial image at a position set for each image block (see Fig. 3).

With regard to claim 6, Yamashita et al discloses generating means decreases an image resolution within a range in which a character can be visually recognized as a character on indicating means, and generates a combined image smaller than original image (see col. 3, lines 60-65).

With regard to claim 7, Yamashita et al discloses extracting means further has application data extracting means for reading application data and extracting the application data (see col. 4, lines 13-18).

With regard to claim 8, Yamashita et al discloses data is the application data which is formed in an application (see col. 10, lines 27-32).

Claim 9 is similarly analyzed as claim 1.

Claims 11-16 are similarly analyzed as claims 3-8.

Claim 17 is similarly analyzed as claim 1.

Claims 19-24 are similarly analyzed as claims 3-8.

Claim 25 is similarly analyzed as claim 1.

Claims 26 and 28-33 are similarly analyzed as claims 3-8.

Claim 34 is similarly analyzed as claim 1.

Claims 35 and 37-42 are similarly analyzed as claims 3-8.

With regard to claim 35, Yamashita et al discloses a character train recognizing step of recognizing a character train (see Fig. 1, item 16); and a replacing step of replacing a two or more sequent spaces recognized in recognizing step or a carriage return line feed control code and a plurality of spaces subsequent thereto with one space (see col. 10, lines 5-15).

Claims 36-42 are similarly analyzed as claims 3-8.

Claim 43 is similarly analyzed as claim 1.

Claims 44 and 45 are similarly analyzed as claim 35.

Claims 47-52 are similarly analyzed as claims 3-8.

Other Prior Art Cited

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. (6,043,823) to Kokaira et al discloses document processing system...

US Patent No. (6,167,410) to Imamura discloses document processing apparatus...

US Patent No. (5,663,809) to Miyaza discloses image processing apparatus...

US Patent No. (5,457,753) to Sasahara discloses image processing device for microfilm reader.

US Patent No. (4,667,248) to Kanno discloses document image editing device.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YOSEF KASSA whose telephone number is (703) 306-5918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BHAVESH MEHTA can be reached on (703) 308-5246. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)

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872-9306 for regular communication and (703) 872-9306 for after Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-5631. The group receptionist number for TC 2600 is (703) 305-4700.

PATENT EXAMINER

Yosef Kassa

03/16/04.



BHAVESH M. MEHTA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600